UNITED
NATIONS

TD

United Nations
Conference
on Trade and
Development

Distr.
GENERAL

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/4
28 December 1998

Original : ENGLISH

TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
COMMISSION ON INVESTMENT, TECHNOLOGY
AND RELATED FINANCIAL ISSUES
Intergovernmental Working Group
of Experts on International Standards
of Accounting and Reporting
Sixteenth session
Geneva, 17 February 1998
Item 2 of the provisional agenda

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND ANNOTATIONS

I. PROVISIONAL AGENDA

1. Election of officers

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

3. Development of a global accounting curriculum and other qualification requirements

4. Other business

5. Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

6. Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on its sixteenth session

GE.98-52949

II. ANNOTATIONS TO THE PROVISIONAL AGENDA

Item 1 - Election of officers

1. In accordance with established practice, it is suggested that the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts elect a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman-cum-Rapporteur.

Item 2 - Adoption of the agenda and organization of work

2. The main item of the provisional agenda for the sixteenth session was approved at the third session of the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Matters, held on 14-18 November 1998.

3. Concerning the organization of the work of the session, the Group has three working days available. It is therefore suggested that the first plenary meeting on 17 February be devoted to procedural matters (items 1 and 2) and the introduction of item 3. Subsequent meetings will be devoted to a detailed discussion of item 3, followed by consideration of items 4 and 5. The last plenary meeting on the afternoon on Friday, 19 February, would be devoted to item 6 adoption, of the report.

4. The secretariat will prepare a tentative schedule indicating the issues to be dealt with by the meeting, which will be available on the first day.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/4 Provisional agenda and annotations.

Item 3 - Development of a global accounting curriculum and other qualification requirements

5. At its fifteenth session, the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts (ISAR) decided to devote its sixteenth session on the development of a global accounting curriculum and other qualification requirements for professional accountants (TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/3.Annex II). It considered that work was well advanced on this topic and that, given the progress at the World Trade Organization on accounting disciplines, it was necessary to produce a global curriculum which could serve as a benchmark and would cut the time and cost of negotiating mutual recognition agreements. It therefore requested UNCTAD to continue its work on the development of a global curriculum, as well as on other requirements for professional accountants, in cooperation with other relevant bodies such as the International Federation of Accountants, the Arab Society of Certified Accountants, and the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants. It further requested that UNCTAD report back at its sixteenth session.

Documentation

TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/5	Guideline for a Global Accounting Curriculum and other Qualification Requirements
TD/B/COM.2/ISAR/6	Global Curriculum for the Professional Education of Professional Accountants

Item 4 - Other business

6. Under "other business", a number of diverse topics can be raised, some of a substantive nature and others of a follow-up nature on the ongoing activities of the Intergovernmental Working Group and other international organizations. For example, at its nineteenth executive session on 15 December 1998, the Trade and Development Board requested that ISAR conduct a self-assessment of the functioning of ISAR.

Item 5 - Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session

7. The provisional agenda for the seventeenth session will be discussed in the light of the deliberations of the sixteenth session, as well as previous sessions.

Item 6 - Adoption of the report of the Intergovernmental Working Group on its sixteenth session

8. The Intergovernmental Working Group may wish to adopt agreed conclusions, as it deems necessary. The Chairperson may wish to produce a Chairperson's summary. The final report will be compiled under the authority of the Chairperson after the conclusion of the session. It will be submitted to the Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues at its fourth session.